SECRET EMPIRE™

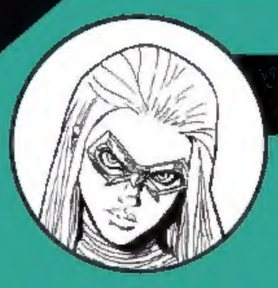
UNDERGROUND

#1

WHITLEY
KODA
FABELA

MARVEL

SECRET EMPIRE
UNDERGROUND



MOCKINGBIRD
BOBBI MORSE

SAM WILSON

ANT-MAN
SCOTT LANG

IRON MAN
TONY STARK A.I.

QUICKSILVER
PIETRO MAXIMOFF

HERCULES

A COSMIC CUBE TRANSFORMED STEVE ROGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA, INTO THE ULTIMATE HYDRA SLEEPER AGENT--AND AFTER MONTHS OF SCHEMING AND MANIPULATION, THE COUNTRY IS NOW UNDER HYDRA'S CONTROL. EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL HEROES ARE STRANDED BEYOND EARTH'S PLANETARY DEFENSE SHIELD OR TRAPPED INSIDE THE DARKFORCE BUBBLE THAT ENVELOPS NEW YORK CITY.

CAPTAIN AMERICA DEALT A VICIOUS BLOW TO THE HANDFUL OF HEROES THAT REMAIN, OBLITERATING THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS FOR SHELTERING THE UNDERGROUND. DESPERATE TO RETURN ROGERS TO HIS FORMER SELF, THE HEROES OF THE UNDERGROUND HAVE EMBARKED ON A HUNT FOR SHARDS OF THE COSMIC CUBE...

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ANTARCTICA.
MINUTES FROM THE SOUTH POLE.

LOOK, THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE LIKE THE LAST ONE. WE SHOULD BE IN AND OUT.

WE KNOW WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE. WE GO IN. WE CONVINCE HIM TO GIVE US THE COSMIC CUBE SHARD. WE GET OUT.

QUESTIONS?

SCOTT LANG, A.K.A. ANT-MAN.
SHRINKS, GROWS, STEALS, GETS CAUGHT, REFORMS.

YEAH, SO WHEN YOU SAY DINOSAURS, YOU MEAN THAT *FIGURATIVELY*, RIGHT?

NO, LANG. *LITERAL* DINOSAURS STILL ROAM THE SAVAGE LAND. IDIOT.

VERILY! THERE IS NO QUEST HERCULES ENJOYS MORE THAN RETRIEVING TREASURE FROM DRAGONS.

PIETRO MAXIMOFF, A.K.A. QUICKSILVER.
RUNS FAST. RUNS HIS MOUTH EVEN FASTER.

HERCULES, A.K.A. HERACLES.
SON OF ZEUS. DEMIGOD. TANK.

WHO'S THE GUY AND WHY'S HE GONNA GIVE THE SHARD TO US?

SAM WILSON, F.K.A. CAPTAIN AMERICA, F.K.A. FALCON.
FLIES. FIGHTS. HAS HAD A ROUGH FEW MONTHS.

SAURON. ESSENTIALLY HE'S PART DINOSAUR AND ALL JERK.

REAL EGO-MANIAC. DRAINS LIFE OUT OF PEOPLE TO MAKE HIMSELF STRONGER.

TONY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FLYING THE PLANE.

I AM... REMOTELY. LISTEN, IT'LL BE FINE. WE'RE--

BOBBI MORSE, A.K.A. MOCKINGBIRD.
LADY ACTION SCIENTIST. AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. HITS THINGS WITH BATTLE STAVES.

A.I. TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN.
ACTUALLY IN A COMA. BUILT AN A.I. OF HIMSELF SO WE COULD ALL ENJOY HIM AFTER HE'S GONE. UNIRONICALLY CALLS OTHER PEOPLE "REAL EGOMANIAC."

THUD

TONY!

THAT WAS NOT ME! THAT WAS--

BOBBI, YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO SEE THIS.

OH, COME ON! WHAT IS THIS?!

I GUESS THEY DIDN'T GET THE MEMO ABOUT THIS BEING THE EASY MISSION.

SHUT UP AND LAND THIS THING BEFORE ONE OF THEM CRASHES INTO THE ENGINE.

YES, MA'AM. JUST CALL ME SULLY.

SEE? EASY DOES IT. DIDN'T EVEN NEED THE HUDSON.

DO YOU EVER STOP? IS THERE AN OFF SWITCH SOMEWHERE?

WELL, THINK HOW LUCKY YOU ARE THAT I'M STAYING HERE.

YOU'RE WHAT NOW?

THE SAVAGE LAND HAS A WEIRD EFFECT ON ELECTRONICS AND SEEING AS I CURRENTLY **AM** ELECTRONICS--

--FINE. EVERYBODY ELSE, LET'S GET GOING.

WHO DECIDED SHE WAS THE LEADER? WHY NOT YOU, LANG? YOU'RE A THIEF, AFTER ALL.

WHEN IT COMES TO LEADING A HEIST ON SOME KIND OF DINOSAUR VAMPIRE, MOCKINGBIRD HAS MY VOTE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, ***CAPTAIN AMERICA?***

DON'T CALL ME THAT.

OH, HAVE I HIT A NERVE? YOU SEEMED RATHER PROUD OF THAT COSTUME BEFORE YOUR BEST FRIEND DECIDED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.

I'M GONNA TELL YOU ONCE, PIETRO, I'M THE WRONG ONE TO START WITH. NOBODY'S LOST MORE THAN I.

NOBODY?

I'D JUST AS SOON KILL ROGERS, BUT HIS PET DEMON HAS MY SISTER UNDER HIS CONTROL AND IF WE KILL ROGERS THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE'LL GET HER BACK.

GET OUTTA MY FACE, PIETRO.

OOF!

WHAT THE--

DIE, AVENGER!

I KNEW YOU WERE BEHIND IT! I KNEW IT!

GET OFFA ME!

FELL BEAST, HERCULES SAYS--

LOOK IN MY EYES, OAF. THOSE ARE NOT YOUR FRIENDS, BUT MONSTERS!

THEY'RE MONSTERS.

YES, AND YOU WANT TO DESTROY THEM, DON'T YOU?

YES.

HAVE AT THEE, MONSTERS!

MOVE IT! SAURON'S GOT HERC HYPNOTIZED.

AS IF WE NEEDED REMINDING HE HAS A WEAK MIND.

NOT A GREAT TIME TO INSULT THE ARMED DEMIGOD, QUICKSILVER!

HIS STRENGTH IS NO OBJECT, HE WILL HAVE TO CATCH--

THUMP

OOF!

WITH YOUR TEAM BUSY, SAURON CAN SUCK YOU DRY OF LIFE FORCE!

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE SUCKING ON MY BATTLE STAVES.

THEN I SHALL USE YOUR ENERGY TO DESTROY YOUR SERVANTS WHO HAVE STOLEN MY THRONE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! GET OFF ME!

LIAR! I SHALL HANG YOUR HEAD ABOVE MY THRONE AS A WARNING TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER!

FOR THE RECORD...

...HANGING A GIRL'S HEAD ON THE WALL IS AT LEAST A TENTH DATE THING.

SHOOM

YAY, I CONTRIBUTED! I NEVER EVEN HAD TO LEAVE THE PLANE.

HEY! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY HEAD?

YOU NEARLY BEHEADED ME, YOU FOOL!

WELL, THIS IS GOING GREAT.

NOW, YOU KIDS GET OFF MY LAWN.

WHAT WAS HE GOING ON ABOUT? HE THOUGHT WE WERE BEHIND SOMETHING?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

BUT I'M SURE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

WAKEY WAKEY, SUNSHINE.

UNTIE ME, VILE WOMAN! I WILL DRAIN YOUR LIFE FORCE AND HYPNOTIZE YOU INTO CUTTING YOUR OWN TONGUE OUT.

I DON'T THINK SO. TAKE A MINUTE TO ASSESS YOUR SITUATION.

WE'RE HERE TO FIND A SHARD. SHINY, SILVERY, LOOKS MAGICAL. WE THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE IT...

BUT THOSE SHORTS DON'T LEAVE MUCH TO THE IMAGINATION.

WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THIS? YOU GAVE THEM POWER TO BETRAY ME, NOW YOU WISH TO RUB IT IN MY FACE?

LISTEN, KARL. CAN I CALL YOU KARL? YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO START MAKING SENSE.

DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU ARE NOT BACKING THESE "NEW STEWARDS"?

I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.

THE THREE MUTATE WOMEN? THE ONES WITH THE SHARD YOU SPEAK OF. WERE YOU NOT THE ONES WHO GAVE IT TO THEM?

GAVE IT TO THEM? NO, WE NEED TO TAKE IT WITH US.

HA HA HA HA!

I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN HE LAUGHS. MAKE HIM STOP THAT.

THEN WE WANT THE SAME THING. WE ARE *ALLIES.*

EXPLAIN.

"WHEN LAST I RETURNED TO THE SAVAGE LAND, I BROUGHT WITH ME WEAPONS LIKE THE REALM HAD NEVER SEEN.

"I CONVINCED MY MUTATES TO ASSIST ME IN RETAKING THE LAND."

"AND BY 'CONVINCED' YOU MEAN HYPNOTIZED, RIGHT?"

"ONLY FOR THOSE TOO WEAK TO RESIST!

"AND WE WERE SUCCESSFUL! IT WAS PERFECT.

"I RULED OVER THE SAVAGE LAND AS THE WISEST AND MOST POWERFUL.

"BUT THEN WITH NO WARNING, MY OWN MUTATES TURNED ON ME.

"WHITEOUT, WHO PSIONICALLY BLINDED ME.

"VERTIGO, WHO CRIPPLED MY BODY WITH SICKNESS.

"AND LUPA, WHO HAD ALWAYS COMMANDED DIRE WOLVES, BUT SHE'S GROWN STRONGER.

"SHE'S GAINED CONTROL OVER OTHER SPECIES AS WELL. LIKE THE DINOSAURS."

"SO SHE DEVELOPED NEW POWERS? THAT SOUNDS LIKE OUR SHARD."

"SHE DROVE ME FROM MY CITADEL...

"... TURNED MY PEOPLE AGAINST ME. I CAN HELP YOU GET YOUR FRAGMENT BACK IF YOU HELP ME RECLAIM MY THRONE."

"EXCUSE ME FOR A SECOND, COUNT DRACUSAUR. I GOTTA HUDDLE WITH THE TEAM."

OKAY. SO, IF WE WANT ANY CHANCE OF RESTORING STEVE, WE NEED TO GET THAT CUBE SHARD, BUT CLEARLY, SAURON IS THE BAD GUY HERE.

DO WE WORK WITH HIM AND DOOM *THIS PLACE* OR TRY TO GO ON OUR OWN AND POTENTIALLY DOOM THE *WHOLE WORLD?*

THAT FRAGMENT IS THE KEY TO LIBERATING MY SISTER. I SAY WE WORK WITH THE CREATURE.

I MEAN, HE'S AWFUL, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE HAVE A CHOICE.

I AM FOR ANY RESULT THAT ALLOWS ME TO WRESTLE DINOSAURS.

BOBBI, THIS IS YOUR MISSION. I TRUST YOU TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

I WAS REALLY HOPING ONE OF YOU WOULD TALK ME OUT OF THIS.

OKAY, YOU GOT A DEAL. YOU SHOW US HOW TO GET TO THIS CITADEL, WE'LL HELP GET YOU IN.

AND YOU'LL HELP ME DEFEAT THESE TRAITOROUS UNDERLING WENCHES.

WATCH IT, KARL.

LET US SHAKE HANDS AS ALLIES.

OH, NO. WE'RE NOT GONNA--

SHAKE HIS HAND! WE'VE DAWDLED LONG ENOUGH!

FINE! LET'S GET TO WO--

THERE'S A GOOD GIRL.

UGH!

ADD THAT TO THE LONG LIST OF THINGS I'M GOING TO BEAT STEVE ROGERS UP FOR.

INDEED! HE WILL HAVE MANY BEATINGS COMING HIS WAY ONCE WE FIX HIM.

DON'T GO TOO FAR! JUST BECAUSE I'M ALLIED WITH YOU DOESN'T MEAN I TRUST YOU.

IF YOU AND I HIT HIM AT THE SAME TIME, HOW FAR DO YOU THINK WE COULD GET HIM?

WERE WE TO CLEAR THE TREES, I BELIEVE WE COULD REACH THE VOLCANO.

YOU *REALLY* GET ME, HERC. I APPRECIATE THAT.

TO MAKE IT TO THE CITADEL WE MUST CROSS THROUGH A LOCAL VILLAGE.

YOU! FAST ONE! YOU WILL SCOUT AHEAD!

I DO *NOT* TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU, CREATURE.

THE WEAKEST ALWAYS MAKE SUCH A GREAT SHOW OF THEIR DEFIANCE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET SOMEBODY WHO WAS A MATCH IN A JERK COMPETITION FOR QUICKSILVER. THE WORLD REALLY IS UPSIDE DOWN.

SCOTT, CAN I TALK TO YOU A MINUTE?

QUICKSILVER! REMEMBER, THIS IS FOR WANDA.

THIS CREATURE HAD BETTER HOPE HE NEVER MEETS ME WHEN HIS SERVICES ARE NOT NEEDED.

RUN ALONG NOW, CHILD. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR EMPTY THREATS.

SURE, BUDDY. WHAT'S UP?

LISTEN, MAN, I AIN'T TRYING TO WORRY YOU, BUT ARE YOU STILL IN TOUCH WITH CASSIE?

YEAH, WE SEND LETTERS BACK AND FORTH. THANK YOU FOR GETTING HER OUT.

DON'T. I JUST...WHAT PIETRO SAID GOT ME THINKING. DO YOU TALK ABOUT HER WITH ANY OF THE REST OF THESE GUYS?

I TRY NOT TO. EVERYBODY HAS PEOPLE WHO ARE IN DANGER. IT SEEMS... MEAN?

NO, THAT'S GOOD.

WHAT'S GOING ON, SAM? YOU'RE KINDA FREAKING ME OUT.

IT'S JUST... THIS THING WITH STEVE HAS REALLY GOT ME THINKING ABOUT WHO I CAN TRUST, YOU KNOW?

WE'RE OUT HERE TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THIS COSMIC CUBE--THE ONE THING THAT CAN FIX STEVE--BUT...

BUT WHAT IF WE GET IT AND SOMEBODY...

GUYS, WE'RE COMING UP ON THE VILLAGE.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAY? DO WE GO AROUND? TRY TO SNEAK A DINOSAUR MAN THROUGH TOWN?

THEY'RE NOT ALL DINOSAUR PEOPLE, RIGHT?

OF COURSE NOT! AND I WILL TELL YOU THE PLAY, ANT-HUMAN.

I WILL NOT COWER WHILE PRETENDERS TAKE MY THRONE. IF THEY WISH TO ATTACK ME, I'LL BURN DOWN THEIR WHOLE VILLAGE.

SAURON!

OKAY, I GUESS LET'S GO MAKE SURE OUR "ALLY" DOESN'T DIE OR ALSO PILLAGE AN INNOCENT VILLAGE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HATE A DINOSAUR SO MUCH! I USED TO LIKE DINOSAURS.

OKAY, LET'S JUST KEEP OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE HERE, SAURON.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PLACATE ME, WOMAN. SAURON WILL DO AS HE PLE--

LONG LIVE THE NEW STEWARDS!

WHO SAID THAT?! I'LL HAVE THEIR HIDE FOR A RUG!

SAURON, CHILL. THIS IS THEIR HOME. LET'S JUST--

THEIR *HOME?! THIS IS MY KINGDOM!*

AND I'LL BURN IT BEFORE I SEE IT TAKEN FROM ME!

WHOA! LOOK OUT!

BOBBI, THINGS JUST GOT WORSE.

STOP IT! I SWEAR TO GOD IF YOU HURT THESE PEOPLE--

WHAT? YOU'LL ABANDON ME AND LET YOUR PRECIOUS WORLD DIE? I THINK NOT.

TEST ME!

HOW CAN THEY BE WORSE?

ROOOAR

SAURON! YOU AND YOUR ALLIES ARE ORDERED BY THE NEW STEWARDS OF THE SAVAGE LAND TO SURRENDER AND STAND TRIAL FOR CRIMES!

NEVER!

THOSE ARE DEFINITELY NOT FIGURATIVE!

I HATE THIS PLACE.

I HATE YOU, SAURON.

FINALLY!

HAVE AT THEE!

SQUALTCH

THAT THING JUST ATE OUR HEAVY HITTER!

FALCON! GIVE ME A LIFT!

WATCH THE JAWS!

THAT'S WHY I DO BURPEES RIGHT THERE!

ALL RIGHT, CHUMP, THIS IS A DINO-JACKING!

THAT'S NOT MY NAME!

SAVE THE ANGST AND GET ME ON THAT T. REX WITH THE BIG GUY!

OKAY, SCOTT, THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU DON'T GET EATEN BY A T. REX! WE CAN TOTALLY DO THIS!

DEFINITELY CAN'T DO THIS! WHAT WAS I THINKING?!

WHAT FOOLISH MEN! WHAT COULD THEY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

HONESTLY?

SLAM

I WAS KINDA THINKING IF I PULLED YOU OFF I WOULD--

--NOT GET BITTEN BY A DINOSAUR-- AAHHHH!!!

I KNOW NOT WHY YOU PLAGUE THE PEOPLE OF THE SAVAGE LAND SO, BUT YOU CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED.

IT'S REALLY NOT PERSONAL, YOUR LEADER JUST HAS SOMETHING WE NEED.

AND YOU WOULD ENSLAVE MY PEOPLE AGAIN FOR IT?

ENSLAVE? IT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE YOU HELPED SAURON TAKE OVER.

WE DID! BUT THEN HE BECAME GREEDY AND PARANOID. HE ENSLAVED OR IMPRISONED ANYONE WHO MIGHT DEFY HIM.

LUPA, WHITEOUT AND VERTIGO WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO REMAIN HIS SERVANTS BECAUSE THEIR POWERS WERE NO THREAT TO HIM. AND...

I REALLY HATE WHERE THIS SENTENCE IS GOING.

...BECAUSE THEY WERE DESIRABLE TO LOOK AT.

YEP, THAT WAS--

SMACK

WHAT THE WHAT?!

I HATE THIS PLAAA--

GOTCHA!

THANKS FOR THE SAVE.

GUYS, IF THIS IS NORMAL FOR A T. REX THEN I MISSED SOMETHING IN BIOLOGY. OR IS THAT HISTORY?

TRIP

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

SEARCH ME. ONE SECOND IT WAS BITING ME, THE NEXT IT WAS STUMBLING AROUND LIKE MY UNCLE VICTOR AT BASICALLY ANY WEDDING.

WAIT, THE TOP ONE IS STILL MOVING.

WHAT THE--

GRAA!

NOT SO MIGHTY FROM THE INSIDE, ARE YOU-- WHOA!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR AID, MIGHTY FALCON! WE ARE VICTORIOUS!

YOU LOOK PRETTY ROUGH, HERC. YOU SURE YOU CAN KEEP GOING?

VERILY! WHERE IS OUR CHARGE?

GOOD QUESTION. GET OUT HERE, SAURON!

WELL DONE, MY SERVANTS. THOUGH NEXT TIME YOU SHOULD SEE ABOUT DEFEATING THESE FOOLS FASTER.

DID SOMEONE SAY FASTER?

DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE WAITING FOR THAT CUE! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

SCOUTING FOR ENEMIES, AS REQUESTED.

WELL CLEARLY YOU MISSED A FEW, SPEEDBALL.

THAT'S NOT FUNNY, CAPTAIN FALCON.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR BS, PIETRO.

FUNNY--

--BECAUSE I FOUND AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE THAT GOES RIGHT TO THIS CITADEL WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

IF MY ESTIMATION IS CORRECT, THIS DOOR SHOULD LEAD TO A STAIRWELL INSIDE THE WALL OF THE CASTLE.

IT WILL BE DARK, BUT AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRWELL WILL BE A HIDDEN DOOR TO THE CITADEL.

SAURON, YOU KNOW THIS PLACE SO WHY DON'T YOU LEAD. I'LL FOLLOW RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

OF COURSE. OTHERWISE YOU FOOLS WOULD BE HOPELESS IN THIS DARK PASSAGE.

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY. EVERYBODY TRY TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE PERSON AHEAD OF YOU, AND STAY QUIET.

HERCULES, BEHIND ME. SAM AND SCOTT AFTER THAT. QUICKSILVER, YOU CAN CATCH UP EASILY SO CLOSE THE DOOR AND FOLLOW US LAST.

I'LL LIKELY BE IN THE ROOM BEFORE HALF OF YOU.

OKAY, DINO-BIRD, YOU THINK YOU CAN PULL THOSE WINGS IN FOR THE CORRIDOR?

ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO MOCK ME OR ARE YOU JUST TOO DULL TO KNOW THE PROPER NAMES OF DINOSAURS?

I CAN'T SAY IT COMES UP THAT OFTEN IN DAY-TO-DAY S.H.I.E.L.D. WORK. BUT I'D BE REALLY GRATEFUL IF YOU CLOSED THEM SO I DON'T FALL DOWN THE STAIRS.

SLAP

IF YOU HAD ASKED SO NICELY IN THE FIRST PLACE, THEY'D ALREADY BE CLOSED.

MY APOLOGIES. OH, THAT'S MUCH BETTER.

HEY, NOW THAT THOSE ARE CLOSED I NEED TO HOLD YOUR HAND SO I CAN FIND MY WAY.

I SEE WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO. YOU HAVE AT LAST FALLEN UNDER THE THRALL OF SAURON. I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN WITH TIME.

YOU GOT ME. I MEAN, I'VE NEVER MET ANOTHER MAN LIKE YOU, THAT'S FOR SURE.

HERE, WE ARE NEARLY ON THE LANDING, BUT YOU MAY HOLD MY HAND.

OH, I FEEL IT. WHEW, I WAS WORRIED I'D LOSE MY WAY.

FEAR NOT, WENCH, SAURON SHALL--

ZIIIP

OUCH! NOT SO TIGHT!

ZIIIP

MY WINGS! WHAT ARE YOU--?!

ZIIIP

THUD

OUCH!!

THUMP

THE MASK HAS NIGHT VISION, LOSER.

BETRAYAL! DECEPTION!

SHUFFF

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WEREN'T GOING TO BETRAY US AS SOON AS WE DID THE DIRTY WORK.

YOUR MUTATE FRIEND ON THE T. REX TOLD ME HOW YOU TREAT YOUR ALLIES. SPEAKING OF WHICH...

STEWARDS OF THE SAVAGE LAND! I HAVE BROUGHT YOU YOUR MOST HATED ENEMY. I REQUEST A TRADE.

WELL, THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE. TELL ME, WITH WHOM AM I BARGAINING?

I'M MOCKINGBIRD AND WE'RE THE AVENGERS.

WELL MET, AVENGERS. I AM LUPA. OUR PEOPLE HAVE CLASHED IN THE PAST, BUT THE THREE OF US SEEK PEACE WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, UNLIKE SAURON.

HOW DID YOU COME BY OUR FORMER SLAVE MASTER?

WE'RE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING AND HE PROMISED TO GIVE IT TO US IN EXCHANGE FOR HELPING HIM OVERTHROW YOU.

BUT, WELL, HE'S JUST THE ABSOLUTE WORST AND I'M HOPING YOU AND I CAN WORK OUT AN EXCHANGE INSTEAD, LUPA.

WELL, I DO NOT RULE ALONE. THESE LADIES ARE WHITEOUT AND VERTIGO.

GREETINGS.

WELL MET, AVENGERS.

WHATEVER THIS THING IS, IF THE THREE OF US CAN GIVE IT TO YOU, WE WILL. SAURON MUST BE TRIED FOR HIS CRIMES AGAINST OUR PEOPLE.

I HAVE TO SAY, IT IS SO NICE TO BE DEALING WITH-- NOT JUST OTHER WOMEN, THOUGH THAT IS NICE-- ACTUALLY DECENT PEOPLE.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS A GLOWING SHARD. IT LOOKS ALMOST LIKE GLASS, BUT AS IF IT'S A BROKEN PIECE OF A LARGER WHOLE.

A GLOWING SHARD. WELL...

I'M AFRAID THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN'T DO. BUT NAME ANY OTHER REWARD AND WE WILL GLADLY GIVE IT TO YOU.

GRRR...

GRRR...

THAT'S NICE OF YOU AND I APPRECIATE YOUR UH...GOOD DOGGIE...

BUT THAT SHARD IS PART OF A...A PUZZLE. IF WE DON'T HAVE ALL OF THE PIECES WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SAVE OUR HOME.

I HOPE YOU, AS SOMEONE WHO ROSE UP TO SAVE YOUR OWN HOME, UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS.

I DO UNDERSTAND. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THE SAVING OF YOUR HOME TO BE WORTH MORE THAN THE SAVING OF MY OWN.

THIS SHARD IS WHAT GAVE US THE POWER TO OVERTHROW OUR OPPRESSORS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SAVAGE LAND CAN BE AT PEACE.

YOUR LOSS PAINS ME, BUT I WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT MY HOME.

I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO INSIST. WE CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THAT PIECE.

THEN I'M AFRAID THE NEXT AVENGERS WHO COME HERE WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING ALL THE PIECES OF YOU.

GROOWL

ANIMAL CRUELTY WAS NOT ON MY TO-DO LIST TODAY!

BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THESE THINGS.

THUNK

I HATE TO DO THIS, BECAUSE YOU ALL SEEM LIKE DECENT PEOPLE, BUT...

LET'S SEE WHAT YOUR AIR GAME IS LIKE.

SLAM

GAH!

IT'S QUITE EFFECTIVE, I'D WAGER.

GAH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY HEAD?!

NEVER HAD VERTIGO BEFORE, FLYBOY?

I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR THE POOR CREATURES. THEY CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT IS STRIKING THEM.

A NOBLE SENTIMENT. PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND IT BETTER.

GAH!

I'M BLIND! I'M BLIND!

AND NOW FOR THE BIG ONE. WHERE DID HE--

--OOF!

ARRRR!

HAVE YOU LOCATED ME NOW, WHITE ONE?

COME, WOMAN OF WOLVES, HERCULES DESIRES A WORTHY OPPONENT!

HAVE AT THEE!

WELL STRUCK! WERE YOU NOT FACING HERCULES, THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DEADLY BLOW!

WHAT MANNER OF MAN ARE YOU? I MUST HAVE ONE.

HA HA!

COME NOW, GIVE ME THE FRAGMENT. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO HAVE TO INJURE SUCH A FINE WARRIOR AS YOURSELF.

YOU ARE TOO EASILY DISTRACTED BY A PRETTY FACE.

YOU OVERLOOK THE FANGS!

AAARRG!

FOR THE RECORD, I LOVE DOGS, OKAY?! THIS REALLY SUCKS!

HEY, WHERE DID SAURON GO?

SAURON!

VERTIGO, MY MOST BEAUTIFUL SERVANT, SURELY YOU WILL HELP FREE ME.

I FOUND THE CLONING TANKS, SAURON.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

FOR YEARS, I'VE HAD THESE TERRIBLE DREAMS ABOUT DYING. THEY SEEMED SO REAL.

THAT'S SILLY.

FIRST RIPTIDE, HE TORE ME OPEN. THEN, THAT HORRIBLE PREDATOR X BEAST. I REMEMBER IT.

I FOUND THE TANK WITH MY NAME ON IT, WITH A BODY JUST LIKE MY OWN.

I VOWED, "THIS TIME I WILL SURVIVE." I VOWED I WOULD KILL YOU.

LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE--

--IN YOUR NEXT LIFE, DON'T TALK SO MUCH!

SLASH

AAAH!

I GUESS WE KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO. I'LL GET YOU CLOSE, YOU GET THE SHARD.

GOOD LUCK!

WELL, I EITHER MAKE THIS JUMP OR I END UP AS GIANT PUPPY CHOW SO--

AND ANT-MAN HAS THE FRAGMENT. THE CROWD GOES--

YIPPEE KI YAY!

THUMP

NOOO!

I HAVE IT!

DIE, YOU FOOL!

YAAARRRG!

I'VE GOT IT!

NOT THIS TIME! BOBBI, HEADED YOUR--

WE NEED THAT! YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!

NOW I HAVE THE FRAGMENT, AND I SHALL--

NOOOOO!

SO HELP ME, IF IT BURNS THIS BODY OUT, DYING TO STOP YOU WOULD BE THE MOST WONDERFUL NIGHTMARE!

AHHHH! STOP IT! YOU'RE TWISTING ME INSIDE OUT!

HAVE ALL THE POWER YOU LIKE, YOU'LL NEVER SEE ANOTHER THING IF I CAN HELP IT, MONSTER.

I'VE BEEN DYING TO DO THIS SINCE I MET YOU.

JUST CALL ME KT!

BECAUSE I JUST MADE YOU EXTINCT!

"YOU NERD! YOU DIDN'T REALLY SAY THAT!"

"I DID AND I'M NOT ASHAMED."

"AND SO THEY LET YOU GUYS HAVE IT?"

NOT EXACTLY. WHEN WHITEOUT TURNED ON SAURON, PIETRO GOT HIS SIGHT BACK.

I WAS FIVE MILES AWAY BEFORE THEY REALIZED I HAD THE FRAGMENT.

AND ONCE THEY KNEW IT WAS GONE, THEY WERE MORE AMICABLE. THEY LET ME PERSONALLY LOCK SAURON IN THE DEEPEST DARKEST DUNGEON.

SO, WHAT'S NEXT? DO WE KEEP LOOKING FOR SHARDS?

NO CHANCE. I DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT DEMIGOD PHYSIOLOGY, BUT HERCULES HAS THIRD-DEGREE BURNS AND HAS BEEN INSIDE A DINOSAUR. HE NEEDS TO SEE A DOCTOR.

SCOTT HAS A DINOSAUR BITE. I'M REALLY HOPING I DON'T HAVE RABIES. PIETRO--

--I THINK HE JUST LIKES TO TAKE HIS SHIRT OFF.

I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW I HAVE SEVERAL CRACKED RIBS THANKS TO HYPNOTIZED HERCULES.

HANG IN THERE, HERC. IN A MONTH, YOU'LL BE A WEREWOLF AND I'LL BE A WERE-DINOSAUR. WE CAN HAVE WACKY WERE-BUDDY ADVENTURES.

I'D WATCH THAT TV SHOW.

YOU STILL WITH US, HERC?

AYE, GOOD SAMUEL. HAVE I TOLD YOU OF THE TIME I FOUGHT THE ACTUAL HYDRA? EIGHT HEADS...=:=

AND, HE'S OUT.

YEAH, I'M CALLING IT. WE LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

TAKE US HOME, TONY.

EXCELLENT COMMAND DECISION. I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY YOU'RE LEADER.

THANK YOU, PIETRO. I LOVE YOU, TOO.

DON'T PUSH IT, MORSE.

NEXT

SECRET EMPIRE #5

TONY STARK'S MISSION TO SAVE CAPTAIN AMERICA FALTERS, AND THE UNDERGROUND'S TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

SECRET EMPIRE: BRAVE NEW WORLD #3

SECRET EMPIRE: BRAVE NEW WORLD #4

ZONE